

# 2012 Indiana Workplace Safety Analysis



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Prepared and presented in conjunction with the release of 2012 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injury & Illnesses data by the Indiana Department of Labor.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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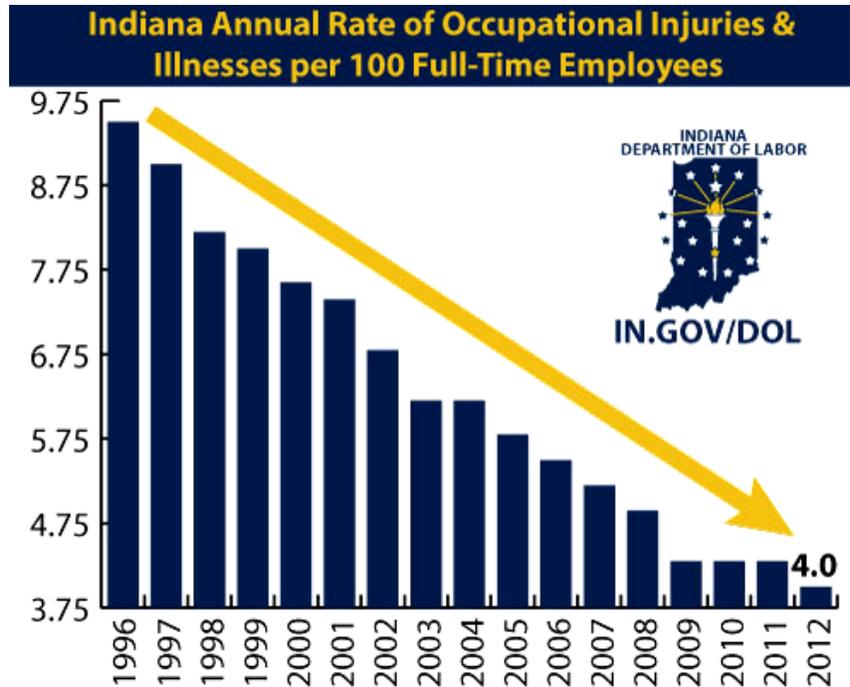
The Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) works annually with the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics to produce a statistical Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) for the State of Indiana telling the quantitative story of workplace safety. Coupled with the release of data on Indiana workplace safety in 2012, this analysis highlights some of the progress and opportunities made in the development of Hoosier workplace safety.

Specifically, Indiana has made significant strides in reducing the rate of non-fatal occupational injury and illness:

1. The 2012 Indiana non-fatal occupational injury and illness rate of 4.0 (per 100 full-time workers) is the lowest on record since the survey began in 1992. The 2012 rate also represents a one-year, 7% decrease from 2011.
2. IDOL has placed special emphasis on workplace safety in the agriculture, healthcare, and transportation industries. These industries all saw an improvement in workplace safety in 2012:
  - a. Agriculture improved by 24.2% to a rate of 7.2.
  - b. Healthcare improved by 15.9% to a rate of 5.3.
  - c. Transportation improved by 2.2% to a rate of 4.5.
3. Indiana's mining industry experienced the largest one-year decline in non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses during 2012. The Hoosier mining industry non-fatal worker injury and illness rate of 2.6 per 100 workers was 44.7% lower than the 2011 rate. The non-fatal occupational injury and illness rate for the coal mining sub-industry rate was 2.6 per 100 workers in 2012—a one-year decrease of more than 16%.
4. The Hoosier agriculture industry showed the second best one-year improvement in comparison to 2011 industry rates. The 2012 non-fatal injury and illness rate for the agriculture industry was 7.2 per 100 workers, which represents a decline of 15.9%.

## OVERALL RATE

For the first time in the history of the annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for the State of Indiana, the rate has hit a low of 4.0 incidents per 100 full-time employees. Previously, the rate of non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses had been at a historically low of 4.3 per 100 workers between years 2009-2011



While this annual survey began in 1972, it has existed in its current form since 1992. In coordination with the federal BLS, Indiana Department of Labor staff work with more than 5,000 Hoosier employers annually to gather data pertaining to work-related injuries and illnesses.

Factors aside from workplace safety and health, such as current economic conditions, can have an effect on this rate. However, the rate can be seen as a general progress report on workplace safety and health. The steady decline over time is a likely indicator that employers have continued to find the pursuit of increased workplace safety and health a sound investment. Further contributing to increased workplace safety in Indiana are the various cooperative programs, free consultation services, and compliance enforcement provided by the Indiana Department of Labor.

## EMPHASIS INDUSTRIES

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All Indiana Department of Labor worker injury and illness emphasis industries saw an improvement in their respective occupational injury and illness rates in 2012.

### ***Hoosier agriculture industry improves by more than 24%***

As one of Indiana's biggest economic drivers, the safety of Hoosier farm workers is vital for the continued success of both the family farm and the state. The inherent dangers of farming make it an industry with a higher-than-average injury and illness rate. Even though a single-year 24% decrease in the agriculture industry's occupational injury and illness rate is encouraging, the change may be the result of a statistical anomaly.

### ***Indiana's healthcare industry improves by nearly 16%***

As a second industry with a higher-than-average injury and illness rate, the healthcare industry has its own inherent challenges to workplace safety. In 2012, injuries in healthcare most frequently were in the form of skin disorders at a rate of 4.6 per 10,000 full-time employees and respiratory conditions at a rate of 4.7 per 10,000 full-time employees.

### ***Indiana's transportation industry improves by 2.2%***

Although transportation is an occupational activity with a relatively high rate of fatality regardless of industry, tracking the rate by the transportation industry is the most direct way to measure progress because current data on transportation activities regardless of industry is limited. Indiana saw a small, one-year decline in the transportation industry's occupational injury and illness rate in 2012.

Reductions in non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses were made in Indiana industries in 2012, but significant opportunities for improvement still remain. The Indiana Department of Labor will continue to leverage its resources, including education, outreach, onsite occupational safety and health consultation, and enforcement efforts, to advance the safety and health of Hoosiers in the workplace.